

Message Text

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04792 011020Z

17 11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 NSAE-00 USSS-00 /031 W
----- 002600

P R 010830Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5336
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 4792

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SA, SY, EG, IS
SUBJ: SAUDI CONCERN OVER ALLEGED SYRIAN MISTREATMENT
OF ISRAELI PRISONERS

1. IN LONG CONVERSATION WITH SAUDI MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF LAST NIGHT I RAISED SUBJECT OF ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF ISREALI PRISONERS BY EGYPT AND SYRIA. I SAID THAT EVERY INDICATION FROM TEL AVIV INDICATED ENORMOUS CONCERN ON ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY; THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND MURDER, IF TRUE, WOULD REVOLT THE WORLD AND WOULD CERTAINLY HURT THE ARAB POSITION.

2. THE MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE HAD HEARD THESE REPORTS; THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NEVER CONDONE SUCH ACTION AND THAT HE WAS SURE THE EGYPTIANS WERE NOT GUILTY.

3. HE SAID HE WAS LESS SURE ABOUT SYRIA; THAT IF THE REPORTS WERE TRUE (AND HE HOPES THEY ARE NOT) THE SYRIANS MUST STOP FORTHWITH. HE SAID HE WOULD CALL IN THE SYRIAN AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING, TELL HIM THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS DISTURBED BY THESE ACCUSATIONS WHICH WOULD HURT THE GOOD NAME AND THE CAUSE
SECRET

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OF THE ARABS IF THEY ARE ALLOWED TO GO UNANSWERED. HE WOULD TELL THE SYRIAN THAT THE ONLY WAY THE CHAGES COULD BE PROVEN FALSE WOULD BE TO RELEASE THE NAMES OF THE PRISONERS AND THEN ADMIT RED CROSS/CRESCENT WORKERS TO MEET THE ISRAELI

PRISONERS.

AKINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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